

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 01703 151847Z
ACTION CU-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /024 W
-----027143 160705Z /10
R 151839Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491

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FOR CU/WE ATTN: CHAFEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOCI, OEXC
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

REF: MEYER/STRAUS CONVERSATION, FEB 9, 1978

1. THE UNDERSECRETARY (NO. 2 POSITION) OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THAT MINISTRY (PROBABLY AN ARCHITECT, BUT NOT YET DESIGNATED) TO VISIT THE US TO LOOK INTO DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH-SECURITY PRISONS. GIVEN THE LEVEL OF THE REQUEST, WE WISH TO BE RESPONSIVE. ALTHOUGH PRISONS ARE ALWAYS A MATTER OF SOME SENSITIVITY, THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SPAIN NOW, AND THE CONCERN REFLECTED IN THIS REQUEST IS IN RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC ORDER PROBLEMS OF AN EMERGING DEMOCRACY, WHICH INCLUDE THE NORMAL RANGE OF DELINQUENCY AND ALSO A DEGREE OF TERRORISM. SPAIN HAS RECENTLY EXPERIENCED A NUMBER OF PRISON RIOTS BY COMMON CRIMINALS, AND IS INTERESTED IN MODERNIZING ITS DETENTION INSTITUTIONS

2. UNLESS THE DEPT SEES SOME OBJECTION, REQUEST THAT KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS BE CONTACTED WITH A VIEW TO IDENTIFYING (1) LIKELY SITES TO BE VISITED (PRISONS
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RECENTLY COMPLETED AND IF POSSIBLE ONE OR MORE UNDER CONSTRUCTION) AND (2) APPROPRIATE PEOPLE FOR THE VISITOR TO MEET WITH (ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, ETC.) IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE.

3. ONCE SUCH INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, A TENTATIVE ITINERARY COULD BE DEVELOPED. JUSTICE UNDERSECRETARY

INDICATED THAT SPANISH GOVERNMENT COULD FUND THE TRAVEL
AND RELATED COSTS. OUR ROLE WOULD PRESUMABLY BE LIMITED
TO FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. PLEASE ADVISE. STABLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, VISITS, PENAL INSTITUTIONS
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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